



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

March 11, 2014

**NOMINATION MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE
PROPOSED OLIVE OIL COMMISSION OF CALIFORNIA**

TO ALL CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS AND HANDLERS OF OLIVES FOR OLIVE OIL:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is calling district nomination meetings for the purpose of receiving nominations of individuals qualified to be appointed to positions on the proposed Olive Oil Commission of California. These meetings are being scheduled pending the outcome a referendum to determine if the proposed Commission should become operative, which is currently being conducted by CDFA. If producers approve implementation of the proposed Commission, CDFA will move forward with the nomination and election process. However, if producers do not approve the implementation of the proposed Commission, the nomination and election process will not proceed as scheduled. The final date for producers to submit referendum ballots is March 14, 2014, and CDFA plans to announce the outcome of the vote approximately 10 days thereafter.

The district nomination meetings are scheduled as follows:

District	Date / Time	Location
District 1	Wednesday, April 2, 2014 Beginning at 1 p.m.	Glenn County Farm Bureau 831 5th Street Orland, CA 95963
District 2	Tuesday, April 1, 2014 Beginning at 9 a.m.	California Department of Food and Agriculture Room 101 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive Sacramento, CA 95833
District 3	Tuesday, April 1, 2014 Beginning at 1 p.m.	Stanislaus County Agricultural Center Conference Room HI 3800 Cornucopia Way Modesto, CA 95358

The Commission Law provides that the board of directors of Olive Oil Commission will be composed of six producers, two from each district, three handlers, one from each district, and one public member. Additionally, there will be an alternate member assigned to each member position. Below is a list of the counties included in each district:

District 1 – Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity

District 2 – Amador, Colusa, El Dorado, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba

[Over]



District 3 – Alameda, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Ventura

In order to be eligible to participate in the nomination meeting in your district or be appointed to a position on the Commission, you must be a producer or handler of olives for olive oil as defined below in the particular district.

“Producer” means any person that produces or causes to be produced olives that are processed into olive oil in the amount of 5,000 gallons or more during the marketing season and that shall, upon request of the commission, provide proof of commodity sale.

“Handler” means a person who engages, in this state, in the operation of marketing olive oil that he or she has produced, or purchased or acquired from an olive producer, or that he or she is marketing on behalf of an olive producer, whether as owner, agent, employee, broker, or otherwise.

Nomination and Election Process

During each nomination meeting, producers and handlers within the particular district will have an opportunity to put forth the names of individuals interested in serving on the Commission as representatives of their district. The nomination processes for producers and handlers will be conducted separately at each nomination meeting. Specifically, eligible producers will only be able nominate themselves or any other eligible producers in their district, and eligible handlers will only be able nominate themselves or any other eligible handlers in their district.

Subsequent to the receipt of nominations for each available position on the Commission, all producers or handlers (as appropriate) present at the meeting will have the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidate(s) among the nominees via a paper election ballot. Individuals receiving the highest number of votes for each position will be elected to the Commission.

Please note that each separate legal entity may only be represented by one individual who is an owner, officer, or employee of the entity, and each individual attending the meeting may only represent one entity. Entities that produce or handle olives for olive oil in more than one district may only participate in one district nomination meeting of their choice. Proxy voting will not be permitted during these meetings.

All eligible producers and handlers of olives for olive oil are encouraged to participate in the nomination meeting scheduled in their district. If you have any questions about the nomination and election process or the proposed Olive Oil Commission of California, please contact Joe Monson with the CDFA Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch